



VILLAGE NEWS

WEST END

Volume 23 Issue no.1
SPRING 2026

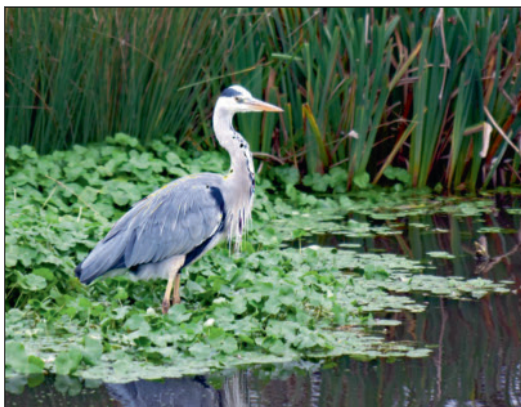
THE WEST END SPRING BIRD WATCH!

On an early morning walk with my dogs on 5th March, I was able to detect a number of wild birds around West End using the Merlin Bird ID app on my iPhone. The app detects birdsong and provides a picture of each bird. I was able to identify an amazing number of birds including: The Robin, Redwing, Goldfinch, Dunnock, Great Tit, Parakeet, Black-headed gull, Gray Wagtail, Song Thrush, Common Chiffchaff, Wren, Carrion Crow, Blue Tit and many others! *(Stock photos)*



L-R: Redwing, Goldfinch, Blue Tit, Parakeet, Wren, Robin

The Swans are busy building their nest on West End pond. The Mallard ducks, Coots, Moorhens and Canadian Geese are busy squabbling and chasing each other around the pond! The Herons have returned to Chequers Pond and the Common Buzzards were flying overhead.



The next time you are out for a walk in West End have some fun trying to spot our feathered friends!

Lyda Archer
Heron : Angela Stockbridge

THE WEST END SWANS



The Swans in 2025 with their new family of nine cygnets having their first swim on the pond!

Now they have started to build their nest we will be monitoring the Swans closely over the next few months. Please only feed the Swans on the pond. Do not encourage them near the road.

Please drive carefully along West End Lane and Winterdown Road to avoid any injuries to the wildlife.

Please keep dogs on a leash at all times when near the ponds. There has been a number of incidents in the past where the Swans and other birds have been seriously injured or even killed through careless driving and injuries caused by dogs off the leash.

Angela Stockbridge

'WELCOME' TO NEW RESIDENTS

The Village News Team welcomes all new residents to our unique and friendly village and we hope you will enjoy the benefits of what it has to offer.

There is always something interesting in which you can become involved, whether it be our Annual Village Show held on Saturday August Bank Holiday weekend, events in the Village Hall, West End Sports and Social Club, the Bridge Club, Winterdown WI, St. George's Church, West End Esher Cricket Club, AFC Westend, West End Motor Club or the Esher & District Racing Pigeon Club.

Enjoy a visit to our popular Garsons Farm and The Prince of Wales, or simply take a walk through the woodlands and along The Ledges by the River Mole or relax on the green and watch the wildlife activity on the ponds. There is something for all to enjoy!



SURREY POLICE
IMPORTANT PLEASE READ.....



Call 999 for Emergencies only.
Call 0800 555111 for Crimestoppers.

Call 101 - Surrey Police for General Enquiries and non-urgent matters.

This number will also transfer you to Esher Police Station, which is open from 09.00-17.00 hours Monday to Friday.

Sgt 3528 Nick Reynolds is Sgt for Esher and Claygate
PC 3435 Ian Hallam is the local Esher Officer
Officers can be contacted by dialling 101 or email: **Please note: the email address has changed for the Elmbridge Policing Team to elmbridge@surrey-police.uk**

Contact for Neighbourhood Watch, is now :
<http://elmbridgehw.ourwatch.org.uk/>
Please report suspicious incidents via 101, or in an emergency 999.
You can also contact Surrey Police online:
<https://www.surrey.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>
Or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/SurreyPolice> and X (formerly Twitter).

IN THE KNOW—SURREY & SUSSEX

Please report suspicious incidents via 101, or in an emergency 999.

- ◆ Cars continue to be stolen. If you have a modern car it's time to check whether your vehicle is eligible for a security update. Always remember to keep your car keys and fobs out of sight and if you have a keyless car use a signal blocking pouch. A variety of Trackers are available and can be fitted. When purchasing a new vehicle make sure it is legitimate. Check the V5 and service history, the VIN, (Vehicle Identification Number) and carry out an HPI (Higher Purchase Investigation)
- ◆ Please keep yours safely stored and securely padlocked.
- ◆ Burglaries have also been reported in the area. Ensure that windows and doors are securely locked at all times. Even the smallest open window can be an entry point!
- ◆ Doorstep deliveries continue to be stolen. Please arrange for deliveries to be left with neighbours if you are out.
- ◆ Beware of on-line fraud and phone calls—never give your personal details to anyone. on-line
- ◆ Please be aware a number of Catalytic Converters from cars continue to be stolen in the Elmbridge area.

MY LITTER PICKING CAMPAIGN CONTINUES ...

My litter picking campaign continues unabated but, sadly, the litter collected has substantially increased. I have sixteen large nitrous oxide canisters awaiting collection by the Council. These were collected since January. What is most worrying is the fact that some children are not getting the “highs” they require and are now upgrading to Ketamine and Crystal Meths with horrific outcomes. Nitrous Oxide itself is a drug and drug-driving is now a bigger killer than alcohol! DTI figures show that the percentage of fatal collisions has doubled from 5 per cent in 2014 to 10 per cent in 2023.

There were 27,000 drug-driving convictions in 2024! The total cost is huge as the majority of people who find a nitrous oxide canister place it in their re-cycling bin, as they believe it is 100 per cent metal. However, what they do not realise is that the canister may still have gas within it or be totally full so, if the recycling operators at the depot do not see the canister before it goes into the furnace to be melted, the result is that it bursts with the heat and can totally destroy the furnace! This is happening on a regular basis and is costing hundreds of thousands of pounds.

As far as the other litter I collect is concerned, I am finding many larger items such as broken coffee makers, car tyres, large cardboard boxes, plastic buckets etc. I leave these in a pile and have to get my car to carry them back home.



People are just too lazy to take these items home or to the local dump.

What a poor reflection on Joe Public this is!

Discarded Nitrous Oxide canisters

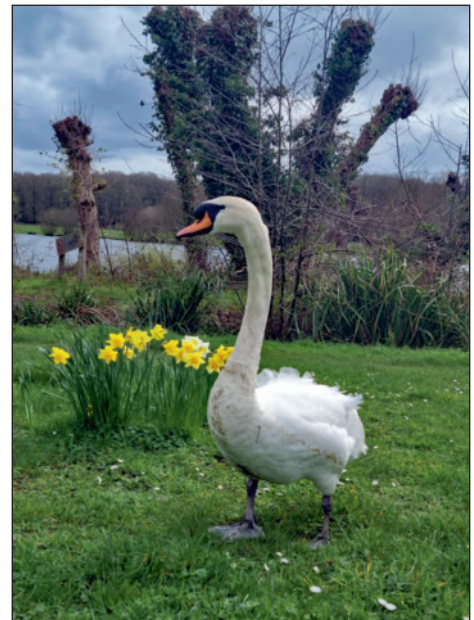
Wendy Tanqueray

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functions and family occasions.
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TO BOOK

Visit: wevh.org
Mail: hirehall@wevh.org

COBHAM MILL

COBHAM MILL OPEN AGAIN AFTER THE FLOODS APRIL 12TH 2PM TILL 5PM



The flooded Mill

Mill picnic table attempts dramatic escape down the River Mole. It had been swept downstream by recent flood water. A local volunteer bravely waded in and negotiated its safe return mid voyage. Swan roost and duck picnic cancelled until further notice! Table under strict house arrest until spring cleaning. Swans and furious ducks demand compensation! Cobham Mill opens for the 2026 season on Sunday 12 April. Come and see Surrey's only working watermill in action — a fascinating living museum right on the River Mole.

What's on:

- Children's quiz, colouring and kid-friendly displays
- Live milling demonstrations
- Guided tours from our friendly volunteers
- Riverside wildlife spotting
- Homemade cakes and scones
- Mill tea towels and souvenir mugs

Good to know:

- Free entry
- Dogs welcome on leads
- Perfect for families looking for a short, fun, educational outing
- Open the second Sunday of each month, April–October, 2–5pm
- Cobham Mill, Mill Road, Cobham KT11 3AL


Cobham Mill is **run entirely by enthusiastic volunteers.**

Donations help keep this unique piece of local heritage turning — and if you'd like to get involved, we'd love to meet you.

More info: facebook.com/CobhamMill
www.cobhammill.org.uk

Ann Forrest

DEFIBRILLATOR OUTSIDE VILLAGE HALL



No training required - anyone can use it
Dial 999 and give the location

You'll be given a key code to open the box
Follow written instructions on the portable unit
Verbal instructions are provided once turned on.



COUNCILLORS' CORNER

News from your local Elmbridge Borough councillors (EBC) (www.esher-residents.com):

West End is part of the Esher Ward for EBC and has elected 3 independent Esher Residents' Association (ERA) councillors: Simon Waugh, Richard Williams and Simon Leifer, ERA Chair. They receive no salary and only minimal allowances.

Local Democracy Eroded?

And yes, we are still your 3 local Elmbridge Councillors for Esher ward for only one more year that is until April 1st 2027 when Elmbridge Council is abolished. The imminent elections are for the new East Surrey Councillors who will 'shadow' the current Surrey cohort and then fully take over in 2027.

However, Simon Waugh, our most experienced and long serving Councillor, former Mayor and current Leader of the Elmbridge residents' group will be offering himself as an Independent candidate for the new East Surrey Council in the elections on 7th May 2026.

If you are new to the area, and not yet registered on the Electoral Roll, the deadline to register to be allowed to vote in this election is 20th April.

Park Close footpath (still) closed but new action by Surrey CC

It's slowly moving forwards and the very many residents who originally registered their statements should have received an email from Catherine Valiant, Countryside Access Officer (Commons), Highways, Transport & Network Management at surreycc.gov.uk

The email contains a number of questions related to an application that has been made to record a recent public footpath along Park Close and the short path at the end of the road which joins to Public Footpath 43, Esher, as shown (A-B-C-D) as shown on the snip of map below.

The questions may initially seem complex but our residents certainly know their stuff as the statements they originally made highlighted.

Good luck and please do respond. We need this long standing public right of way confirmed and reinstated and this unlawful gate removed. We are still a democracy after all!

If you want to contact us please email on:
helloesher@esher-residents.com

Simon Leifer, Simon Waugh & Richard Williams



WEST END VILLAGE HALL IS BEING TRANSFORMED!

West End Village Hall is undergoing a major renovation. Thanks to a successful application for CIL funding, topped up by our own hard-earned hall funds, we are busy replacing the toilets and the foyer flooring. The beautiful oak floor in the main hall is also being sanded and restored and the potholes in the car park will be gone soon!
We are closed throughout this work and will re-open on 7th April.

We have also launched a fundraiser for our next project, replacing the exterior doors.

A huge thank you to all of you that have already donated. We are really grateful to every one of you.

We are holding a **Wine Tasting Evening** on Friday April 17th with all proceeds going towards the doors. This is being hosted by West End's very own wine expert, author and auctioneer, Chris Hambleton. Spaces are limited so please contact us at admin@wevh.uk if you would like to book a place, or a whole table. If you miss out on this, please look out for details of a coffee morning and other events to follow.

My thanks go out to the Village Hall team and contractors who have worked very hard on this project and to everyone in the Village for supporting us. We hope you like it and can't wait to welcome you back!

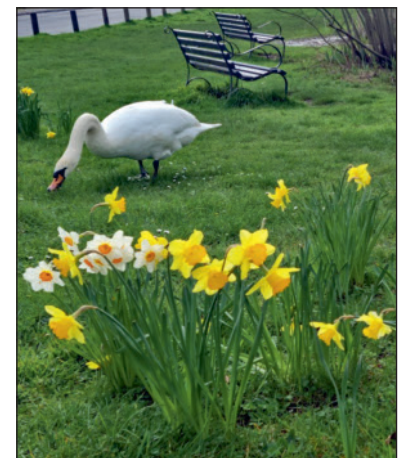
How you can help?

Donate: We are fundraising for new doors via our Zeffy page:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/donation-form/new-doors-for-the-village-hall>



Jo Flippance, Chair of the Village Hall



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH WEST END

We are Rectorless at the moment, but we were lucky to have had all our usual Christmas services covered except for the Crib Service. This was held as a joint service at Christ Church and proved to be the best one ever. 127 adults and 49 children attended with many appreciative feedback emails including comments like “the best crib service I’ve been to in 16 years”. All thanks are due to Kath Chapman (our Children and Families Worker) for creating, organising and taking the service. Make a note to come along next year!



Our recruitment campaign for a new Rector continues to be on schedule; we hope to have some positive news to share in the next edition. In the meantime, we are truly grateful to Jonathan (Andrew) and all the visiting clergy who have stepped in enthusiastically to keep the show on the road. Our thanks to them all.

Some time ago we installed a new gate at the side of the church, giving disabled access via a ramp to the vestry. Thanks to Rachel Wilkinson (David Gerrard’s daughter) and family, they have kindly laid additional paving from the gravel drive, making access much easier. Our grateful thanks go to all of them.

The garden always looks particularly lovely in the spring, thanks to our dedicated gardening team. *Special* thanks are now due to Clare Craigmile, who after more than 30 years has finally decided to hang up her gardening gloves. She has promised, though, to be our “Honorary Rose Advisor” so that her beautiful bed of roses continues to bloom all through the summer. The church is bare during Lent but will be full of flowers and miniature Easter Gardens one of which will be displayed, as usual, on the step by the entrance door.

St George’s Day is on Thursday 23rd April so we will be celebrating our patron saint at our service on **SUNDAY 26TH APRIL**, when the fence around the church will be decorated with St George’s bunting and flags. Please come and join us on this special Sunday when our service will include some well-loved traditional hymns, including “Jerusalem”. We will then all head off to the Prince of Wales for coffee after the service.

Music on The Green (MOTG) – we always mention these wonderful concerts – but don’t forget that these free concerts are held at Christ Church on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1pm. Doors open at 12.30 when a light lunch is available. Donations are welcome to support this venture, ensuring that it continues.

****STOP PRESS**** We are also delighted to report that the Village Show has recently and very generously donated to St George’s the sum of £1,000, for which we are extremely grateful. This will certainly be put to very good use when we undertake the crucial underfloor repairs and the laying of the new floor. The cheque was presented by Alastair Joel, Chairman of the Village Show, and received by Bridget Williams, Charles Hawkshaw-Burn (Deputy Churchwarden), and Peter Bedford.



Services at St George’s for this period are as follows:

Sunday 29th March 9am PALM SUNDAY
 Sunday 5th April 9am EASTER SUNDAY
 Sunday 26th April 9am ST GEORGE’S DAY Celebration

Please do join us at as many or any of the services that you can. You are always very welcome.

For more information about all our services (at both churches) please do visit our website:

<http://www.esherparish.org.uk>

Here you can find everything you might want to know about the Parish of Esher including Music on The Green. We put topical notices on the fence outside the church – so please do stop and look to see what’s going on as you pass by. Finally – thank you as always for your continued support and we wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Andrea Lindow & Bridget Williams

THE TOADS, FROGS AND NEWTS OF WEST END THANK YOU!

You are driving home in the dark and rain and what is that you see in your headlights? Some bedraggled person in the middle of the road, wearing a hi-vis vest and holding a torch and bucket. What on earth are they doing? As a lot of you may already know, they are Toad Patrol!

Every year, from time immemorial, toads, frogs and newts wake from their winter hibernation to travel to ponds to spawn. Toads travel to the actual pond in which they were born. Frogs can travel up to 500 metres whilst, amazingly, toads can



Above: A female frog

make journeys up to 5 kilometers!

From late January, if it is raining and warm enough (above 7 degrees), the animals start to travel as dusk falls. Unfortunately, dusk coincides with rush hour and West End Lane and Winterdown Road were built right across their migration routes. This sadly proves fatal for many. Even more tragic is the fact that toads often travel in pairs where suitors have chosen a mate and make the pilgrimage together. The male hitches a piggy back ride on the female in what is known as ‘amplexus’ and this can mean the loss of both at the same time.

The motivation of the patrollers is to prevent the loss of life of so many creatures and the aim is to save our local amphibians from potential extinction. The patroller’s technique is to spot the direction of travel before shining the torch too brightly at which point the animal may instinctively freeze. Not a good strategy when the light is from a car’s headlights. In either scenario it would be crazy to take them to the wrong side only for them to risk the journey back!

We are very lucky to live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and this year we have been overwhelmed by the numbers of you that have slowed down for us and these vulnerable amphibians. When we are soaking wet, the positive and encouraging comments really keep us going. Some of you have even stopped to let us know you have spotted one that needs our help. What wonderful people you are! Thank you from us all.

If you are interested to know more about the patrols, and how to join: <https://www.froglife.org/what-we-do/toads-on-roads/tormap/>

Jo Flippance & Chris Campbell

ESHER FRENCH CIRCLE

Maryse Wright's talk (in French) to Esher French Circle's members in February about the Panthéon's changing role over the centuries was particularly interesting.

King Louis XV laid the foundation stone of the Église de Sainte Geneviève in 1764, since when the building's function has changed no less than six times. The building in the Paris Latin Quarter became Le Panthéon during the French Revolution. Following the death of Mirabeau in 1791 and while the church was still under construction, it became France's national necropolis for illustrious men. Voltaire and Rousseau were buried there in 1791 and 1794 respectively.

Following the burial on 21 February 2024 of French Resistance hero Missak Manouchian, the Panthéon now houses the remains of more than 80 well-known figures, including six women.



Le Panthéon, Paris

A relaxed way to keep up with France and the French

Esher French Circle offers monthly talks – in French – by native or fluent French speakers, for anybody interested in keeping up or improving their French, in a relaxed and convivial setting. The talks take place in West End Village Hall, Esher – except for March and April 2026, when they will be held at the Albert Arms in Esher. The meetings are on the third Wednesday of most months and the doors open at 7pm. There is ample opportunity to mingle and chat over a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits before the main talk starts at 7.30pm.

Esher French Circle warmly welcomes anybody with an interest in France and French life, whatever their level of knowledge of the language. More information is available on the club's website:

www.cerlefrancais-esher.uk

Change of venue in March and April 2026

West End Village Hall will be closed for renovation in March and April, so Esher French Circle's talks for those months will be held in:

The Albert Arms, 82 High Street, Esher, KT10 9QS

2026 programme

Esher French Circle's 2026 programme of talks (all in French), offers a continuing variety of themes and speakers:

18 March, in the Albert Arms: *The political situation in France* by Constance Bantman

18 April, in the Albert Arms: *The French feminist pioneer Olympe de Gouges* by Brigitte Thibaut

20 May, in West End Village Hall: *Rosa Bonheur – an extraordinary artist* by Catherine Greensmith

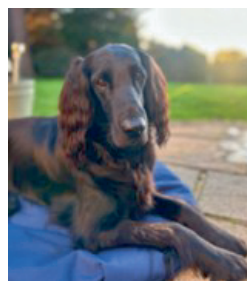
For further information, contact:

Peter Prowse - peter.c.prowse@gmail.com 07973 213039
Or

Anne Bell - annebell121@yahoo.co.uk 07796 698097

Peter Prowse

INDY'S SPRING DOG BLOG



Hello again! It's me, Indy, your very own West End repawter, back with another tail-wagging report.

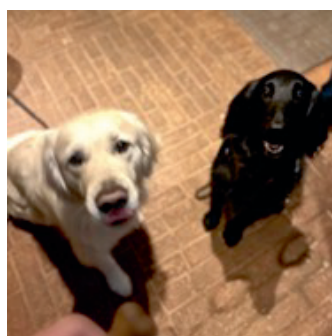
Christmas is now just a drifting snowflake memory in my dog brain, so I've turned my attention to Easter. Fluffy yellow chicks, sweet long-eared bunnies, and mountains of chocolate which, tragically, I am not allowed to sample. However, I do hear that TKMaxx, Ocado, and even

Amazon sell doggy Easter eggs. Just saying in case my Mummy happens to read this.

At this time of year, a puzzling thing called Spring Cleaning happens. I don't really see the point, because I shake my bed whenever I choose and it seems perfectly adequate to me. However, the other day my Mummy got very enthusiastic and scrubbed the kitchen floor. She even put my bed in the garden so I wouldn't do dog-paw art all over the clean shiny tiles. Naturally, I assumed I had been thrown out. Perhaps I've watched too many sad dog movies with my girls, because I curled up very small in my outdoor bed, feeling terribly miserable, my paws getting colder and colder. Luckily, Nana came to visit, and we all went back into the nice warm kitchen, where they had the cheek to laugh at me and call me a drama queen.

I am pleased to report that, with a little medication, I am now managing to play nine holes of golf again. Yes indeed! Even with my rather pawly elbows, I walk beside the trolley, guarding the clubs while shots are played, finding lost balls, offering guidance on club choice, yardage and, most importantly, guiding players to the halfway house for a sausage.

Talking of sausages, there is another wonderful meeting spot you should know about: the newly renovated Winterdown Café on West End Lane. Mummy, Nana and I popped in after a gentle scamper at the Rec. Do you know what they sell there? (And this will be the clincher for you), Doggy Sausages. Delickingly delicious! I sat extremely politely and of course Mummy bought me one. I do love my tummy... I mean my Mummy.



I met a charming yellow Labrador called Milo at The Prince of Wales. He's the Cricket Club Dog, which sounds to me like a very important position. Probably lots of supervising snacks I think. We had a lovely chin-wag and promised to bring our families back soon so we can swap even bigger, taller tails and practice our very sad, hungry puppy eyes, which, if you do them properly, magically turn into treats. It's basically a superpower!

Remember, I'm the flat-coated retriever wearing a pink collar and walking with a rather distinguished limp. If you see me about, please do stop and say hello..... especially if snacks are involved.

Indy

TRIBUTE TO

GRAHAM WOODROW HILL 29.09.1941 TO 27.01.2026



Graham was born in Sutton. He had a privileged childhood and attended a Boarding School in South London. Graham leaves behind two children Paul and Karen, and two grandchildren Camilla and Tanner.

Graham's father, Reginald, owned a commercial heating/engineering business and the family lived in Lammas Lane, with an office in Cobham. After leaving school Graham attended college and gained an Engineering Diploma and eventually took over the family business for many years. Sadly it eventually ceased trading in the mid-1980s.

Graham was a member of the Bentley Driver's Club in the 1970s and the former proud owner of three Bentleys the last of which was the Vintage 1923 Bentley 3 Litre TT4-Seater, Reg: XO 5530, Chassis no. 285 Engine no. 281, below, which is listed on the Vintage Bentley Register.

Graham was a keen follower of Formula 1 motor racing and never missed a race throughout the season. He was very knowledgeable on all aspects of engineering, and could often be found by his father 'tinkering' with the engine of his own Bentley.



He enjoyed many of the West End Motor Club annual outings including: Windsor, visiting Eton College, a Farncombe Canal boat trip which included a picnic in a meadow by the canal accompanied by music on Ken Berry's gramophone when we were gate-crashed by a herd of inquisitive cows! A trip on the Watercress Line with afternoon tea was another highlight as well as many other events! Graham also enjoyed watching Rugby and enjoyed the 'Rugby lunches' held at Esher Rugby Club with fellow members of the WEESC.

For many years he was the very much loved and affectionately known as 'Mr Graham' by the young pupils who attended the Yehudi Menuhin School in Stoke D'Abernon. Many of the pupils lived in far flung countries around the world such as Japan, South Korea, China, to name but a few. 'Mr Graham' took great care of each pupil when transporting them to their destination airport during the school holidays. He was always punctual when he was required.

He had a good rapport with them, ensuring their safe handover to members of the airline staff before departing, and collecting and returning them safely to the care of the school following their return journeys. At all times keeping in touch with their families and the school. He was very well liked and always had the children's safety at heart. He will be greatly missed by the pupils.

Graham enjoyed experimenting with cooking and was known as 'the chef' by his neighbours at the residence where he lived, because he could always be found in the kitchen! He would often cook lunch for close friends using special ingredients, creating a 'cordon bleu' style meal and, of course, this was always accompanied by an obligatory glass of wine!

Graham was well known for his beautifully expressive calligraphy. Greeting cards and letters were always signed with his creative and artistic handwriting complete with his signature flourish!

Graham's funeral service took place on 17th March at Randalls Park Crematorium and was well attended by family and friends. The service was lead by Stephen Foster and included the very fitting 'My letter to you Graham' in the form of a poem written by our very own Malcolm Parsons. The service was followed by a gathering at the Sports and Social Club where many friends regaled stories of Graham and his long association with Bentley cars and West End.

Graham had a kind and generous nature with a sense of humour and will be greatly missed by family and his close friends.



WINTERDOWN WI

West End has a WI called 'Winterdown WI' and we look forward to welcoming visitors and new members to our meetings and outings. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7:45 pm for an 8:00 pm start (normally in the Village Hall).

In January we went to Chertsey Museum for a talk about their collection of wedding dresses from the 1780's to 1980's. (The exhibition is very good and you can still visit up to September 2026).



In February we had a fascinating talk, 'The History of Mudlarking' (the hobby of searching the Thames foreshore for archaeological objects - permit required) by Jason Sandy. Some members found the talk so interesting we also went to the mudlarking exhibition at Docklands Museum. Members went out for a lunch together at 'The Cricketers' in Downside, another success.

While the Village Hall is being updated we will be meeting in St Georges Church which is a beautiful venue. So do join us there on 2nd April for our next talk 'Through the stage door' by Peter Allen.

For more information e-mail our secretary Christine Grove at: infowinterdown@surreyfedwi.org.uk

WEST END VILLAGE SHOW “For the Village by the Village”



Spring is in the air, and with it comes the welcome news that preparations are well under way for the **West End Village Show 2026**, taking place on **Saturday 29th August**.

Following the tremendous success of last year’s event, the Village Show committee have carefully reviewed feedback from residents and friends of the Village. As a result, a refreshed programme featuring several exciting new additions is currently being finalised. Full details will be revealed when the official programme is delivered to homes in June, and the committee promise there will be “plenty of entries for everyone.”

Supporting the Community

The committee, at the first meeting of the year, were delighted to announce the allocation of charitable donations from the proceeds of the 2025 Show. Once again, the event has demonstrated what can be achieved when a community comes together.

Among this year’s beneficiaries are:

- **St George’s Church** – receiving funds towards internal refurbishment
- **West End Village Hall** - supported with a donation for its kitchen refurbishment project.
- **Oasis Charity** – which provides vital assistance to vulnerable families and children across Elmbridge. Representatives shared a heartwarming presentation at the AGM highlighting their ongoing community impact.
- **Hersham District Girl Guides** – receiving a contribution towards the purchase of an eight person tent.
- **Princess Alice Hospice & Oxfam shops and Hersham Hounds** – all of whom have benefited from generous donations. It was noted that two of the Show’s most popular attractions, the long running “Smash a Plate” stall and the much-loved Dog Show, would not be the successes they are without the dedication and involvement of these charities.
- **Village News** – a contribution has once again been made to this publication, which is valued by the community, with thanks extended to Angela Stockbridge for her continued hard work in producing it.

A True Community Effort

The West End Village Show continues to embody its motto:

“For the Village, by the Village.”

The committee expresses heartfelt thanks to all contributors, volunteers, stall-holders and, most importantly, the residents of West End Village, without your support and generosity, we would not be able to support these worthy causes. Programmes will be distributed in June, when volunteers look forward to meeting familiar faces on doorsteps throughout the village.

And then, of course, all eyes turn to **Show Day on Saturday 29th August, a date firmly set to bring the community together once again.**

Julia Iveson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Village News would like to express its thanks and gratitude the Village Show Committee for its very generous donation to the Village News following the success of the 2025 Village Show.

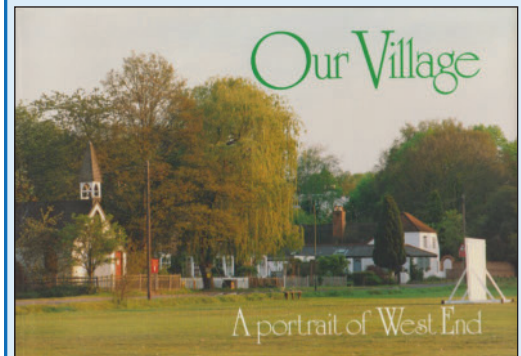
Your generosity is much appreciated, and as always, is very welcome.

We would also like to thank the ‘Friends of the Village News’ for their annual donations.

Donations such as these are invaluable in helping towards the cost of the production of the newsletter. Your support helps to keep the residents of our very unique community up-to-date with all the local news.

Thanks to Ken Berry, we have also received a donation from the sale of ‘Our Village—A Portrait of West End’ by the late George Thirtle.

The seeds of this book were sown in April 1975 when a photographic exhibition was presented showing aspects of West End.



Skating on the pond c.1900

The book is beautifully produced and follows the history of West End through the years with stories and photographs. If you would like a copy it can be purchased for £4.99 by emailing:

angelastockbridge1115@gmail.com

All proceeds go towards the Village News.



CLAREMONT LANDSCAPE GARDEN



One of the theatre nights last year.

There's so much to enjoy at Claremont Landscape Garden this spring and summer. We're excited to bring families a series of enchanting storybook trails inspired by beloved classics, including Judith Kerr's *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* and Enid Blyton's *Magic Faraway Tree*.

We'll also be celebrating our four-legged friends with **Doggy Celebration Day on Saturday 9 May**, and welcoming back the **Surrey Sculpture Society**, showcasing stunning trail artworks from its talented members.

Claremont Live returns too, with open-air theatre on the lawn, and throughout August you can relax to **music on the lawn every Saturday afternoon**, performed by fantastic local bands. And, of course, rowboats will once again be available to hire—offering visitors a chance to enjoy magical views of Claremont from the lake.

See full event listings below:

The Tiger Who Came to Tea, Sat 2 May—Sun 7 June

Explore this very special teatime story through extracts and illustrations from Judith Kerr's classic *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*. Enjoy a family trail around the garden, produced in partnership with HarperCollins Publishers.

Doggy Celebration Day at Claremont Landscape Garden: Saturday 9 May, 10am – 5pm

Visit with your dog on Saturday 9 May and there'll be a free treat for each pooch in partnership with Forthglade. Capture your hound looking it's best at our 'Pet Gala' selfie-station, test their skills in the have-a-go dog agility arena, then enter them into our dog show with prizes supplied by local independent dog food shop, Doggy Deli.

Free with normal admission. Dog Show classes £2 per entry.

Spring Photo Walk: Saturday 16 May

Brush up your digital photography skills on a two-hour workshop capturing the garden in spring with award-winning professional photographer, Lillian Spibey. Booking essential. £50.

Sculpture Exhibition – Surrey Sculpture Society: Saturday 13 June – Sunday 12 July

Surrey Sculpture Society will be returning to Claremont Landscape Garden this summer with a brand-new exhibition of sculptures from members of the society. Last year the exhibition saw 70 plus works of art installed around the lake providing an opportunity to experience art against the elegant background of Claremont's Lake, amphitheatre and pastoral landscape views.

Claremont Live!

- Thursday 9 July – A Midsummer Night's Dream**
Four Forty Theatre invite you into their outrageous take on Shakespeare's most magical comedy in just forty minutes. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* follows runaway lovers, magical creatures, and a group of very determined actors who find themselves in over their heads. Suitable for ages 7+.
See website for tickets.
- Sunday 12 July – Othello**
For the first time in the company's history, The Lord Chamberlain's Men present *Othello*, one of Shakespeare's greatest works. This stunning and devastatingly poignant play is a story of deception, jealousy and a man that loved not wisely but too well.
See website for tickets.
- Thursday 23 July – Three Musketeers**
All for One; One for All! Young D'Artagnan is desperate to join Athos, Porthos and Aramis as an elite Musketeer of the King's Guard. But are his swashbuckling credentials sufficient? Join Illyria for a whirlwind of excitement, comedy and ingenious storytelling.
Suitable for ages 8+. See website for tickets.
- Saturday 25 July – Peter Rabbit**
Quantum Theatre brings its much-loved adaptation of Beatrix Potter's best-loved tales, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* and *Benjamin Bunny* to Claremont. Perfect for younger visitors. See website for tickets.
- Saturdays in August—Saturday Sessions**
Join us for a lazy Saturday afternoon on the lawn at Claremont listening to music from local bands. Free with normal admission.

The Magic Faraway Tree,

Sat 18 July—Mon 31 August

This summer Claremont transforms into *The Enchanted Wood* with a brand-new family trail inspired by Enid Blyton's beloved stories. Join Joe, Beth and Frannie on a woodland adventure. Free trail normal admission applies.

Row boats – Sat 5 April – Sun 28 September

Ahoy there! Our famous row boats will be out on the lake this spring - come and spend a lazy afternoon with us on the water and take in our beautiful surroundings with your loved ones. Available on weekends, school and bank holidays until the end of September. £12 per boat for 30 minutes. Subject to volunteer availability and lake levels.

Forest Bathing 17 April, 18 May, 5 June

Soak up the peace and tranquillity of Claremont on a sensory journey through the arboretum to calm the mind and feed your soul. £25 per person. Booking essential. See website for details

Wanda Arden, Marketing and Communications Officer,
The National Trust

WEST END BRIDGE CLUB

We are a small club which meets every Tuesday
Afternoon in the Village Hall.



We play friendly bridge and new members are very welcome. We are not competitive and members only enjoy a pleasant afternoon with like-minded people.

Anyone interested, requiring more information should
contact:

Sandra Elms on 01372 466433

THE WEST END SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS
www.WESSC.org

WEST END SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB SPECIAL



Esher & District
RPC



WEST END GOLF SOCIETY



Anyone wishing to join the WEGS can call Dave Morgan on 07956 221566

NEWS FROM THE BAR

The Stuff of Nightmares!



Shown here after the shock Scottish defeat of England are Club regulars Patrick Donnelly, Paul Gibson and sole Scottish supporter our own Jim Dallas.

The Club was very busy of course, but home supporters were left stunned by a slightly scruffy England performance whom were always up against the superior Home Team!

Congratulations Jim!

*Richard Jenkins
Welsh Rugby Correspondent*

PS Wales 12 France 54!!

WEST END ESHER CRICKET CLUB

W.E.E.C.C. 1875

Welcoming Girls for our u 10-u15 Introduction Day

Wednesday 29 April 2026 6:30pm- 7:45pm

Join us and bring a friend for:

- A taster session
- To meet everyone
- BBQ and Drinks
- Registration

2026 season includes:

- Weekday evening girls training
- Family membership of West End Social Club
- Matches throughout the season
- Friday evening mixed training

[@WestendEsherCC](https://www.facebook.com/WestendEsherCC)

FURTHER INFORMATION:
Jo Graves: girlscricket@weecc.co.uk
07983 325783
The Pavillion, West End Lane, Esher, KT10 8LF

QUIZ NIGHT



Rachel Gee, above right, hosted the recent Quiz Night, which, as you can see, is always popular, great fun and a very well attended event.

Photo: Robin Crane

WEST END ESHER CRICKET CLUB

W.E.E.C.C. 1875

Welcomes junior members for the 2026 season

U5 – U15 Boys and Girls

Season kick off - Friday 1st May 2026, 5.15pm onwards

2026 SEASON INCLUDES:

- Friday evening training
- Matches throughout the summer
- Family membership to West End Sports and Social Club

NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

[@WestendEsherCC](https://www.facebook.com/WestendEsherCC)

FURTHER INFORMATION
Email Ruth Lovering juniorchairman@weecc.co.uk
Membership registration via TEAMO at weecc.co.uk
The Pavillion, West End Lane, Esher, KT10 8LF

W.E.E.C.C. 1875

WEST END ESHER CRICKET CLUB

Please see the separate insert for all the latest Cricket News from Chris Hambleton.



WEST END MOTOR CLUB

Weekly breakfast meetings on Tuesday mornings continue at Brooklands Museum. Our numbers at breakfast are if anything increasing as word spreads and more than 20 are usually present. Everyone is still welcome to join us Thursday evenings at the

West End Club for car talk and a jar.

A number of West End Motor Club members recently made a unique visit and Geoff reports:

Just outside Potters Bar is Studio 434, the home of the largest privately owned car collection in the UK. It is owned by Rodger Dudding, a British entrepreneur best known for his remarkable ticket queuing system, typically at its peak seen at supermarket deli counters late 1970s - 1990s.



Hosted on the day by his Rodger's wife, Emma, ably assisted by Ahmed, we experienced a fabulous tour of both the original classic style building as well as the much newer purpose built multi storey unit which comprises areas for his personal collection, storage for other customers and includes a film studio on the top floor where cars from his collection can be filmed for movies and TV programmes.



The car collection itself, now exceeds 450, holds significant memories for many of us as we owned some of the same models during our motoring lives. The prize exhibit was a Morris Minor, Rodger's father's first car! Amongst this remarkable and unique collection of Rolls Royces, Bentleys, Porsches, Alfa Romeo, Fiats, various motorcycles and many more several models had their own multiples. Not least was the Aston Martin Lagonda of which there were some 24 in total including one that was interestingly painted in pink!

All our members had a truly wonderful time just taking in the styles, the various bodywork and the mechanical details that appeal to us car enthusiasts. It was all topped off with a delightful buffet style lunch as witnessed in the attached photo, a personal audio message from Rodger and a china mug as a memento of our visit. Fabulous!

Continuing with members' accounts of their cars here is one by Mike on one of his many Triumphs:

The Triumph 2000/2500 range of Saloons and Estates were produced from 1963 until 1977. Most of the Triumphs produced were sports cars and this was their only large executive car. I bought it in June 2004 Mileage 26,454 and have used it over the years for many outings and took it to a many car shows. A few years ago I was approached by ITV to use my car in a TV series called 'Stars In Their Cars'.

Alexei Sayle with Paddy McGuinness as passenger asking the questions, drove my car for two days while they filmed. I was amazed at the time taken, equipment and number of people used to make a TV program.



text: Geoff Cox, Mike Allam, Roger Brown
photos: Rodger Dudding, Emma Dudding, Mike Allam

BOXING DAY FOOTBALL MATCH



The Boxing Day football match.
Ages range from 7 to 70 plus!

The event was organised by Peter Horwood and locals of the West End Sports and Social Club. It was great fun, well supported and followed by drinks to recover in the Sports and Social Club.

Photo: Mike Bacon



B & B IN THE VILLAGE



Bed and Breakfast available. All rooms are double bedrooms, made up of king size, and super king beds. The super king can be divided into 2 single beds. All rooms have en-suites and also tea and coffee making facilities, mini fridge and water/juices provided.
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For further information call
Edwina Halanen (West End Lane)
 on 07721 091184

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VILLAGE NEWS WEST END

Please make a diary note of copy dates:
Summer: Friday 26th June by 1pm
Autumn: Friday 4th September by 1pm
Christmas: Friday 20th November by 1pm

Please contact Angela Stockbridge Email:
 angelastockbridge1115@gmail.com 07817 498531
 or 01372 460703

The Village News is supported by local organisations including: the West End Village Club, West End Motor Club, The West End Village Show Committee, Garsons, Winterdown WI, the late Richard Gale, West End Village Hall Committee, The former West End Residents' Association, Advertisers and personal donations.

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We thank you all for your continued support.